

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 MC-02 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

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P R 041316Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8144

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MILI, KE, GW, US

SUBJECT: KENYAN APPROACH TO FRG FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

1. FRG AMBASSADOR HEIMSOETH CALLED ON ME TODAY TO ADVISE THAT GOK HAS ASKED HIM TO ARRANGE FOR VISIT TO BONN OF A MINISTERIAL-LEVEL DELEGATION ON MARCH 15 FOR TALKS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF WHAT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FRG MIGHT BE WILLING TO PROVIDE KENYA IN SUPPORT OF ITS ARMED FORCES' MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION PROGRAM. HEIMSOETH SAID HE HAS CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO KEEP KENYANS FROM GETTING UP FALSE HOPES RE WHAT FRG MIGHT DO IN THIS FIELD AND IS AFRAID DELEGATION WILL BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED. HE HAS REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED TO KENYANS THAT PRESENT FRG POLICY PREVENTS EXPORT OF LETHAL MILITARY ITEMS TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS KENYA, AND THAT AT MOST SOME MODEST GRANT FINANCING FOR MERCEDES-BENZ TRUCKS MIGHT AGAIN, AS IN PAST, BE PROVIDED.

2. ACCORDING TO HEIMSOETH, KENYANS WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE SOME 120 MERCEDES-BENZ TRUCKS OF VARIOUS SIZES FOR DELIVERY OVER MULTI-YEAR PERIOD. TOTAL COST OF THESE TRUCKS MIGHT REACH 8-10 MILLION DM. HOWEVER, HEIMSOETH FEARS THAT AS MATTER NOW STANDS BONN WILL BE WILLING AT MOST TO OFFER GRANT FINANCING
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OF ONLY ABOUT 2-3 MILLION DM, REMAINDER PAYABLE

IN CASH. HE HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO
PERSUADE BONN THAT KENYA DESERVES MORE HELP
IN THIS FIELD, BUT REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT REINFORCE
HIS EFFORTS BY BRIEFING FRG EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON
OUR ASSESSMENT OF THREAT CONFRONTING KENYA AND WHAT
USG HAS DECIDED TO DO TO ASSIST KENYA IN MEETING THIS
THREAT. UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS OBJECTION, I WOULD
RECOMMEND THAT WE FULFILL HIS REQUEST BY BRIEFING
FRG EMBASSY WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. PLEASE ADVISE.
MARSHALL

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